



MARCH 1994

HAM RADIO

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BILL KD6JUI

(SEE SPEAKER OF THE MONTH)

PAARA

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PAARA POLICIES

MEMBERSHIP IN PAARA IS \$6.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR WHICH INCLUDES A
SUBSCRIPTION TO PAARA/GRAPHS. MAKE PAYMENT TO THE PALO ALTO
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 911, MENLO PARK, CA 94026

CLUB NET 147.45 MHZ MONDAYS 8:30 PM

MEETINGS: 7:30 PM ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE
MENLO PARK RECREATION CENTER, 700 ALMA STREET.

SEND PAARA/GRAPHS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

CHUCK JOHNSON N6VFH, EDITOR
3309 MT. LOGAN DRIVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95127

VOLUME 37

MARCH 1994

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

HAPPY MARCH!

C U NEXT MONTH!

**73 DE YOUR EDITOR
SPEAKER OF THE MONTH**

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DE ANDY VE3FZK

**MARCH PROGRAM "BICYCLE BILL" KD6JUI,
on:**

**"HAM RADIO BIKE TOURS" --- slide show, QRP gear demo!
7:30 PM Menlo Park Rec. Center Friday March 4th!**

**Dinner with speaker at SU HONG, 6 PM March 4th...
(Bill gets off the SP train at 6, with his back
pack loaded with the ham gear, so be there!!!)**

**One of Bill's greatest pleasures in life is doing ham
radio in the field, especially long bike tours. He
invented the "Pacific Crest Bicycle Trail" and wrote
a guide book on it. Each summer, he takes a group of
hams on the tour.**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Prez has been out of town for the better part of the month so she is completely in the dark as to the latest details of what's happening in PAARA-land... There is a Board Meeting at N6PGM QTH on March 16th so Board Members take note. Also, be sure to pay your dues in order to be included in the upcoming PAARA roster. See you at the meeting March 4th!

**REMEMBER-
OPEN HOME BREW NITE NOW AT EVERY MEETING.
BRING UR CREATIONS TO SHOW-'N-TELL WITH THE
CLUB ! - YE OLDE NOTICE**

THE OLDE MATH OF FIELD DAY - QST DE GERRY WA6LNU

GERRY PROVIDED A FD LOGSHEET FROM MAY
OF 1954 THAT HAD SOME UNUSUAL MULTIPLIERS.
NOT QUITE LIKE THE NEW MATH OF FIELD DAY.-ED
(SHOWN BELOW)

Nr. stns. worked ... contact points claimed:-

+ Message-handling points claimed:-

X 3 if both transmitter and receiver supplied from
independent power source:-

Power multiplier:
3 if transmitter input 30 watts or less, 2 if input
between 30 and 150 watts, 1 if input more than
150 watts:-

X 1.5 if battery power used on both transmitter and
receiver (applies only to mobile, or Unit-
Individual entries):-

*TRANSFER TO APPROPRIATE BOX
ON ARRL FD SUMMARY SHEET

SCORE:

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST...

*HISTORY REPEATING
ITSELF*

DINAH'S SHACK
SOPHIE'S CHOICE
MOFFETT OFFICER'S CLUB
THE FARM HOUSE

PAARA'S STREAK OF "HITS"
CONTINUES WITH YET ANOTHER
HOLIDAY DINNER VENUE GOING
BY THE BOARDS, AS YOU CAN NOW
SEE IF YOU LOOK AT THE SITE OFF OF
HIGHWAY 101 IN REDWOOD CITY. WHERE
WILL IT END? WHERE WILL WE HAVE
THE '94 DINNER? STAY TUNED! -ED

—RADIO NOSTALGIA VIA STEVE KD6CNU—



Radio Waves
1033

been concerned about tails and broken bones, a possibility that didn't occur to us.

hose of you who wear radio headsets on your ears while jogging may find it difficult to believe that radio reception was not so simple and easy at one time.



I remember, as a boy of about 9 years, the attempt to "pull in" a radio station by the use of a crystal set. A crystal about the size of a sugar cube was placed in a small basin, a "feeler wire" hung over it, and I methodically placed the wire on various areas of the crystal until some sound was received.

The headset was ancient and bulky compared to what is now available. We had earphones and, with proper aerial and ground connections, luck and much persistence, a local station could be heard, faint and with much static.

Atmospheric conditions were a big factor in reception. Rainy nights and nights of poor visibility seemed to be the best.

Antennas were a major factor in good reception; climbing on rooftops to string wire was expected. As boys, climbing presented no problem. Mother was never advised of such climbs, although I'm sure she knew of them. She would have

The objective was simple: who could get the most stations and clear reception. Boys throughout the neighborhood competed with homemade units, and much bragging was done as to overall performance. Occasionally the truth would surface.

So much for the "kid stuff." I later graduated to endeavors of a more complex nature—a two-tube, battery-operated receiver with earphones, antenna, ground wire and dials to select stations.

One did all the complicated wiring with care, properly placing the receptacles for glass tubes, installing the proper rheostat and selecting stations for listening.

There were problems in obtaining glass tubes; they were costly. I solved that one easily. I made the rounds of local radio repair shops looking for used glass tubes discarded by customers in commercial radio sets.

My approach was simple. I would ask the owner of the repair shop if I could have his discarded glass tubes for use as targets for my BB gun. Most

owners were happy to have them hauled away. Some tubes *did* become targets, but a few had enough life left to power my set.

What was the high point of my two-tube radio enterprise? I'll never forget that night. I lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. St. Louis, Mo., was approximately 300 miles away. Atmospheric conditions were just right and I pulled in a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game! I had arrived!

I was no more the novice. My skills were not world-renowned, but that wasn't necessary. They were at least neighborhood-renowned. ♦



By Clifford Melberg



MORE OF RICH W6APZ'S ADVENTURES IN EI-LAND

(PART OF A CONTINUING SERIES)

As we approached Galway from Donegal, I heard EI4GRC sign on the Galway repeater (with an understandable but pronounced Irish accent) so I called him. After several tries without making contact, I announced my call as listening for a contact. No response. A while later I again heard "EI4GRC Galway", so again I called him. No response. Looking at the information sent me by IRTS, I knew that the call sign of the repeater was EI7AMB and I knew that running 25 watts I was making the repeater. I began to get suspicious. Again I announced my call. This time EI9GX, Jess, from County Tipperary called me. Guessing, I asked him if "EI4GRC Galway" was the digitized repeater voice. He confirmed my suspicions. The repeater had changed calls since the 1991 IRTS Handbook had been printed. I had been calling the repeater! In my mind, I knew exactly what the typical American repeater controller synthesized voice sounds like. When I heard a typical Irish voice announcing the call, I thought I was calling a real person!

Ireland has many television relay stations due to the hilly nature of the terrain. The highest mountain in Ireland is approximately 1000 *meters* high, yet there are many lower hills which would block TV reception to valley and coast areas without a repeater. On Achill Island, the TV repeater site was easily reached by a relatively good road, so up we went. This site was easily 1000 feet high, certainly well above surrounding terrain for many miles. As we made our way up to the top, the sun came out and the sight of the countryside was beautiful. I tried all the repeaters, but received no response. I even tried the FM mobile simplex frequency, but no response. It was then that I remembered that there are *only* 1700 licensed Irish hams. What was the probability that one of them would happen to be listening to two meters in the middle of the day? It would have made an excellent field day location, however.

(TO BE CONTINUED....)



**COALITION OF AMATEUR EXPERIMENTERS
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**JOIN PAARA'S VERY OWN MIKE KD6EUD AND ED KD6KCA
FOR ALL THE FUN AND HAM EXPERIMENTING WITH THE
COAX GROUP!**

PAARA VE TEAM QST DE RON W6UG

February 19, 1994 VE test, Ampex Cafeteria, Redwood City, CA
Despite the heavy rain and cold weather, we had 21 applicants for testing.
15 novice and technician, 1 general, 5 advanced, and 2 extra tests were
given. The two who took the extra test passed with perfect scores. Our
congrats to them. On hand to administer the tests were: Joe Horne Sr.
KB6OWG, Steve K6FS, Gene KK6LO, Rich W6APZ, Dan WB6STW, Bill WB6UVO
& Ron W6VG.

SUNNYVALE VEC TEST HOTLINE. INCLUDES PAARA VE TEAM AMPEX
CAFETERIA TEST DATES AND LATEST FCC INFORMATION. (408)255-9000.

ESTATE SALE QST DE JACK W6LII

The following equipment available from the estate of
N7BNY/SK is listed and posted for offering to PAARA members
before being listed on general swap nets. The radios and
accessories are all in mint condition and ready for operation.
If interested in any item call Jack W6LII at (415) 591-8526
for pick-up or delivery.

1 - FT900 DM TCVR w/CW FILTER -----	400.00
1 - FT 101DZ TCVR w/CW FILTER -----	375.00
1 - VERSA TUNER MFJ 941D -----	75.00
1 - MFJ KEYER w/BENCHER PADDLE 442B --	100.00
1 - 2MTR HANDHELD RS HX202 w/CHARGER	
E/W 16 MEM & PL'S -----	200.00
1 - ICOM 2AT TCVR w/CHARGER -----	150.00

MANUALS AVAILABLE FOR ALL EQUIPMENT

WELCOME !

I'D LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW
MEMBERS:

JOHN AVALOS - NC

JOEL WILHITE - NC

DE RON KD6RFI

WANTED: WORKING OR NOT WORKING

- VINTAGE (TUBE) HAM RADIO GEAR
 - STRAIGHT CW KEYS AND MISC. PARTS
- CONTACT CLINT, KM6NJ (408) 742-4582

QST DE GERRY W6NIR

LONG DISTANCE PAARA SWAP!

Rick (W6NCX) long time PAARA member and all time innovative editor of PAARAGRAPHS, for the last many years portable 1 in Arlington, Mass. near where he works at MIT's Lincoln Lab, faced a local challenge. Arrival of Matthew Richard forced a decision. Rick must move out sufficient of his old time equipment to make room for a bassinet. It's the old conflict between boat anchors and babies. So Rick ran the following ad in a ham journal,

"Trade Gonset G66B/AC, (2) ELMAC PMR7's/AC
Piper Autonav LF/BC RX-----all for a nice
telegraph key."

You see telegraph keys are small enough to be hidden in a corner of a bassinet; and, Lucy, babies cry for other reasons than being nipped by the contacts of a buried ham - key.

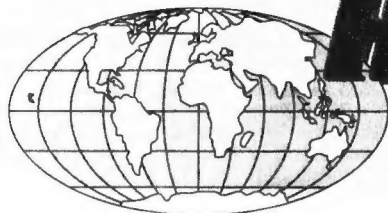
A Florida collector read the ad and coveted the Gonset or the Elmac or whatever. He telephoned Rick, but regrettably had not even a nasty key. "What do you have to trade?" asked Rick. "Well, I do have a nice Drake 2-c receiver." Wheels whirled in Rick's facile mind. He remembered that W6NIR had said months before that he was looking for a 2C. The trade was made, blind, on the spot. The Florida ham was given strict instructions. The Gonset - Elmac was on its way. The W4 must IMMEDIATELY forward the 2-c to Menlo Park, adequately packed and with manual.

So three days later a large package arrived at the W6NIR QTH, from Florida via UPS "3 day select", 17.52 lbs \$19.32, with a large legend inscribed on the inside cover of the box (per Rick's instructions) "SEND W6NCX a nice telegraph key." This unlikely scenario should have produced, in the real world, a corroded old boat anchor, with rust competing with mouse droppings all over the chassis. Not true! The 2 - C was mint, without a scratch and operated perfectly the first time turned on. The astounded W6NIR reconstructed the unusual transaction and completed the trade by sending Rick a Ham-key paddle, an Autek Mark 1 memory keyer, and the pink slip for an Autek QF1A. We understand that Rick has already traded these for a "nice" Toyota pick-up, but that's another story.

PAARA HISTORY !

QST DE STEVE K6FS

HELP - club historian K6FS needs help locating (1) data/documents regarding founding and early days of Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association/Menlo Park CD Club; (2) names and calls of founding board; (3) names and calls of first and subsequent presidents. Thanks for any help! Mail, phone or packet via KA6JLT BBS. <VIA PACKET>



HAM RADIO OUTLET

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